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# Soviet 'active measures' against U.S. detailed

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DORIS O'DONNELL

Last July, the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives held two days of secret hearings on "Soviet active measures," a program directed mainly against the United States.

Testimony was presented by John McMahon, deputy director of the Central Intelligence Agency; Edward J. O'Malley, assistant director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and former Russian KGB Maj. Stanislav A. Levchenko, who defected to the United States in 1979. He had been a Soviet journalist in Japan, where he actually was a spy as well as a ranking KGB officer.

The testimony was withheld from public dissemination until Dec. 9, when U.S. Rep. C. W. Bill Young of Florida held a press conference at the Rayburn House Building in Washington where Levchenko was introduced to the media.

"The purpose of the hearings was to examine the magnitude and the methods of the Soviet Union's 'active measures' aimed at reducing the credibility and effectiveness of the United States throughout the world," Young said.

The report, while not drawing conclusions, deals with some of the Soviet activities that include agents of influence, manipulation of groups and individuals, forgeries of documents, demonstrations, public demonstrations and media manipulation, Young said.

Young said the CIA and FBI witnesses presented studies of situations where Soviet "secret measures" were used, and they also reported on the Soviet funding of the European peace movement, Soviet political influence operations, the Christian Peace Conference, the World Peace Council, and the use of journalists and journalism covers by Soviet intelligence.

Young said the "hearings would not have been as effective without Stanislav Levchenko, who at one time was a major in the Soviet KGB, involved in the 'active measures' program of the KGB. Maj. Levchenko is the only Soviet KGB official involved in 'active measures' who has ever defected to the United States," Young said.

Young also explained that the hearings were held prior to nuclear freeze activities in the United States, and "the freeze was not the purpose of the hearings."

John Stein, deputy director for operations of the CIA, explained to the committee, headed by Rep. Edward P. Boland, D-Mass., that "the Soviet term 'active measures' is used (primarily in an intelligence context) to distinguish influence operations from espionage and counterintelligence, but this term is not limited to intelligence alone.

"Rather, Soviet 'active measures' involve activities by virtually every element of the Soviet party and state structure and are regarded as valuable, a regular supplement to, and closely coordinated with traditional diplomacy," Stein said.

Stein said Soviet "active measures" include manipulation or control of the media; written or oral disinformation; use of foreign Communist parties and front organizations; clandestine radio broadcasting; economic activities; military operations

and other political influence operations.

The CIA report to the committee said the use of the Soviet terms "active measures," rather than the more familiar term covert action, is intentional. "Active measures" comprise a broader concept than covert action and include a full range of overt, as well as covert, activities undertaken by the Soviet Union.

The secret July hearings provided the CIA an opportunity to update its Intelligence Memorandum, last presented to the House intelligence committee in February of 1980.

McMahon told the committee "there is a tendency in the West to underestimate the significance of foreign propaganda and to cast doubt on the effectiveness of 'active measures' as instruments of foreign policy.

"Soviet leaders, however, do not share such beliefs," McMahon said. "They regard propaganda and 'active measures' as important supplemental instruments in the conduct of their foreign policy by conventional diplomatic military and economic means.

McMahon cited the "active measures" the Soviets undertook against the INF, the intermediate range nuclear forces, in Europe some years ago.

"That campaign," he said, "which began in 1979, continues unabated, and there is evidence that the Soviet Union is manipulating and financing activities by some elements of the so-called peace movement in Western Europe."

McMahon added that not all opposition to NATO nuclear-forces modernization is Soviet-inspired.

"Many people are sincerely concerned about the potential danger of nuclear weapons. We do have good evidence, however, that the Soviets have set out to exploit and manipulate the movement, and we believe that the Soviet covert support has enabled it to grow beyond its own capabilities.

"Ultimate approval for the use of 'active measures,'" McMahon said, "rests with the highest level of the Soviet hierarchy, the Politburo and the Secretariat of the Central Committee of the Communist party of the Soviet Union (CPSU). The KGB implements most covert 'active measures' operations."

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